(d) The Government is holding 67.72% of the paid up Share Capital of BHEL. There is at present no proposal of further disinvestment of BHEL's shares. Therefore, the question of take-over of BHEL does not arise at present.

Checking the Price Rise of Essential Commodities

*216 SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to control the price hike of essential commodities in the whole country;

(b) whether Government are aware of the abnormal price rise of essential commodities and vegetables in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether Government would prevail over State Government of Tamil Nadu to control the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The Government has taken a number of steps to control the prices of essential commodities. In order to meet the shortage of wheat, action has been to import wheat upto 2 million tonnes through State Trading Corporation. Apart from certain long term measures to increase the production of essential commodities, imports of commodities which are in short supply are encouraged to augment the availability of these items. Some of the commodities are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores on below market prices. State Governments have been asked to take stringent action against hoarders, black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities, Act, etc.

(b) and (c) According to the information available from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the price rise of essential commodities was mainly due to the low production at the producing centres and low arrivals from other centres due to traffic bottlenecks caused during the recent cyclonic floods. The prices of vegetables are showing a declining trend since January. The State Government is taking steps to control the prices by market intervention and discussions with the representatives of the traders. The State Cooperative outlets are also undertaking sale of essential commodities at reasonable prices.

Abolition of Dual Pricing of Sugarcane

*217. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from farmers to abolish dual pricing of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the prevailing dual pricing system;

(d) whether Government have also announced new support price;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) some representations have been received. One of them from UP, inter-alia, laments the fact that the price of Rs.72/- fixed earlier has been reduced to Rs. 42/-.

In this context it needs, to be pointed out that under the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 the price of sugarcane is fixed first as Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) under Clause (3) of the Order and then additional price becomes payable under Clause 5 (A) of the said order on